

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. *(Currently Amended)* A groundwater well sample device, comprising:

a sample tube, the sample tube being an elongated hollow cylinder, the sample tube having an open top end and a closed bottom end adapted for containing a groundwater sample, the tube further having:

a knothole defined therein adjacent to the top end;

a string-retaining slot defined therein extending from the knothole towards the top end, the string-retaining slot having a knothole end and a terminal end; and

a stress-reducing aperture defined therein, the stress-reducing aperture adjoining said terminal end of said string-retaining slot[.];

wherein the top end of said tube is angled, and the tube being open opposite the knothole, whereby a knotted end of a string may be passed through the knothole without passing into the cylinder defined by the tube.

Claim 2. *(Canceled)*

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A groundwater well sample device ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a sample tube, the sample tube being an elongated hollow cylinder, the sample tube having an open top end and a closed bottom end adapted for containing a groundwater sample, the tube further having:

a knothole defined therein adjacent to the top end;

a string-retaining slot defined therein extending from the knothole towards the top end, the string-retaining slot having a knothole end and a terminal end;

a stress-reducing aperture defined therein, the stress-reducing aperture adjoining said terminal end of said string-retaining slot; and

wherein the string-retaining slot has a chamfer formed in the knothole end.

Claim 4. (Original) The groundwater well sample device according to claim 1, wherein said slot is zigzagged.

Claim 5. (Original) The groundwater well sample device according to claim 1, further comprising a retaining means for retaining a fluid within said sample tube, the retaining means being disposed on said bottom end of said sample tube.

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Claim 6. *(Original)* The groundwater well sample device according to claim 1, further comprising an admitting and retaining means for admitting a fluid sample into and retaining the fluid sample within said sample tube, the admitting and retaining means disposed on said bottom end of said sample tube.